

people is that the present system makes it relatively more attractive to do this than Mexico after NAFTA will.

There was a man here last week from a fifth-generation Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-based furniture manufacturer, who talked about how he said, "They tried to get me to move to the South for years. Then the people tried to get me to move to Mexico. I wouldn't move anywhere; I'm staying in Pennsylvania. But I am going to sell more products and hire more people if you pass this deal." I think there will be more examples of that than there will be people who shut down and move. I think the President, however, should discourage and jawbone people from doing it, regardless.

Q. Thank you very much. Thank you, sir.

Q. Would you lose any leverage domestically if this thing goes down?

The President. Well, perhaps for a time. There's always a drag in politics. I don't think that would be permanent. I'm far more concerned—the effect on me is irrelevant. It's impossible to calculate what the twists and turns in the next 6 months or 2 years or 3 years will be. That doesn't matter. What matters is this is good for the American people, so it will be bad for them if it goes down. And it would clearly be bad for the United States in terms of our leadership to promote more growth, more economic partnerships, in terms of our leverage to get those Asian markets open.

Keep in mind, if we get a new GATT agreement, we'll get more access to the Asian markets. Our trade problem is not with Mexico. Here's a country that's with a much lower income than we have, spending 70 percent of all their money on foreign purchases, on American products, buying stuff hand over fist. Our trade problem is not with them. Our trade problem is \$49 billion with Japan, \$19 billion with China, \$9 billion with Taiwan, because those countries are growing very fast with their high savings, low cost, heavy export, minimum import strategy. We need that.

Our other big trade problem is a stagnant Europe. In other words, Europe is pretty open to our stuff, except for agriculture. They've been pretty open toward us. But when there's no growth, they have no money

to buy anything new. So the thing that I'm most worried about is that it will put America on the wrong side of history and it will take us in a direction that is just where we don't want to go as we move toward the 21st century. That overwhelms every other concern.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on the Massachusetts Building Trade Council Endorsement of NAFTA

November 12, 1993

Today, we saw a profile in courage. Leo Purcell, president of the Massachusetts Building Trade Council, endorsed NAFTA in a letter to fellow union workers.

In addition to saying, as I have, that this is a choice between change and status quo, Purcell, wrote, "No longer can nations afford to build invisible walls at their borders because there are no longer national borders to free trade."

I applaud Mr. Purcell for his leadership, courage, and vision and for his strong confidence in the American worker.

NOTE: A copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Leo Purcell was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Appointment of Members of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

November 12, 1993

The President appointed four members today to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, which selects students, scholars, teachers, and trainees to participate in educational exchanges as Fulbright scholars. It also finances educational activities for Americans abroad and for foreign citizens in the United States and promotes American

studies in foreign countries and foreign language training and area training in the United States. The Board is comprised of 12 members, appointed by the President. The new members appointed today are Victoria Murphy of Maine, Hoyt Purvis of Arkansas, Robert Rose of Connecticut, and Lee Williams of Arkansas.

“Like many Arkansans, I have long regarded Senator William Fulbright as both a role model and a mentor,” said the President. “The Fulbright scholarships are his most lasting achievement. I trust that these four Board members, two of whom served on his staff, will work to preserve his legacy.”

NOTE: Biographies of the appointees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary. The Office of the Press Secretary also issued a clarification stating that the appointment of Hoyt Purvis will take effect on January 1, 1994, while the other appointments are effective immediately. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Departure for Memphis, Tennessee

November 13, 1993

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, PLO Chairman Arafat seems to have condemned the murder of an Israeli at the end of October. Do you think this is in response to your request and Mr. Rabin’s request?

The President. Well, perhaps, but regardless I think it’s a very positive sign. I’ve only received limited reports this morning, but from what I’ve heard it’s a very positive sign. It’s the sort of thing that will enable them to work together and to implement the accord.

Q. Were there any direct contacts between you and Arafat in order to get him to condemn the murder?

The President. We had no direct contacts, the White House did not, but we made it very clear what our position was, and I think that the Israelis—they have direct contact of course with the PLO now because of the implementation of the accord. And I think perhaps again I would say we maybe ought to give most of the credit to that. I hope the

meeting yesterday highlighted it and our position is clear. But they need to keep their word to each other, that’s the most important thing.

NAFTA

Q. What about NAFTA, how do you feel about NAFTA today?

The President. Feel a little better. We had a good day yesterday; you know we’ve had three big days. I think we’ve had 27 people come out, and I think we’re going to have another good day today. We’ll have several of those who are declared down in Memphis with us, and we’re making some pretty good inroads now in places where I didn’t know we could get some votes. So it’s going to be a hard weekend, but I think we’ll make it.

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. What I have always said is if they’re opposed on the grounds of NAFTA next year, I’d be happy to say in any district in America or to any district in America that I think NAFTA is in the public interest, it’s in the national interest, and it should not be the basis on which any Member of Congress, without regard to party, is voted out. Thanks.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 8:25 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President’s Radio Address

November 13, 1993

Good morning. This week, Americans celebrated Veterans Day, the day we set aside to thank those who served, kept us secure, and helped preserve the freedoms each of us cherish.

On Thursday, after paying my respects to the veterans at Arlington Cemetery, I met with two groups of patriots who span the generations: some of the remaining veterans of World War I and active duty personnel who served with such distinction in Somalia. These brave Americans are linked across the years to each other and to history by the valor with which they served our Nation. None of